(d) the States which will be directly benefited from it; and

(e) by when it will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity of Dahej LNG terminal is 5 MMTPA.

(c) About Rs.2700 crores will be spent on the construction of Dahej LNG terminal.

(d) Besides the State of Gujarat, the other beneficiary States will be Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.

(e) The Dahej LNG terminal is scheduled for mechanical completion in December, 2003 and the commercial operations are likely to commence in the second quarter of 2004.

New LPG agencies in Karnataka

234. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol pumps operating in Karnataka;

(b) whether the number of those outlets are adequate in proportion to the growing population of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to setup new LPG agencies/ retail outlets in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As of 1.4.2003, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 457 LPG distributorships and 1,158 retail outlets in the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) OMCs have neither reported any inadequacy of the number of outlets nor any complaint relating to availability of Motor Sprit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the State of Karnataka.

(d) The setting up of distributorships/dealerships is a continuous process. Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs are free to set up the LPG distributorships/ Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations in all the States as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

Gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh

235. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies as on date in Uttar Pradesh and their distribution, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more gas agencies in the State during 2003 and 2004;

(c) if so, whether the places for the purpose have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 914 LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh as on 1.4.2003.

(b) to (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs are free to set up the LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations. This is an ongoing process and hence full and finite information for the years 2003 and 2004 may not be possible.

Identification of New CBM Blocks

236. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of eight blocks in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal where exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane has started;